Court-Approved Wiretaps By Police Doubled in 1970

By FRED P. GRAHAM 5 3 7 Special to The New York Times

almost doubled in 1970 over security investigations. the figure for 1969.

year, the figure was 302.

veillance by the Justice Depart-effect was 100 devices.
ment and the State of New Court-approved eavesdrop-Jersey.

The which obtained 33 orders to ized by Congress in the omnieavesdrop in 1969, got 183 last bus Crime Control Act of 1969 year. New Jersey, which has The law requires each agency developed an aggressive agento report its surveillance activicy in the office of Attorney ties each year to Mr. Kirks, General George F. Kugler Jr. to who compiles a national report fight organized crime, got 132 and files it with Congress. The court orders last year, com- report filed Friday was the sec-

was sent to Congress last Fri- for an entire year. day by Roland F. Kirks, Administrator of the United States Continued on Page 22, Column 1 Courts, has not yet been made Courts, has not yet been made public. A copy of the report into New York Times Biographical Edition in the New York Times Biographical Edition in the New York Times Biographical Edition in the New York Times.

**Ew Weerly Biographical Edition in the New York Times Biographical Edition white: The New York Times Library Services, Box FF-469, 229 West 4 Street, New York, N.Y. 10036. Advt. Times.

WASHINGTON, May 2-A| It covers only electronic surnew report to Congress on po-veillance that is used in crimilice eavesdropping shows that nal cases with court approval. the number of court-approved Not covered is wiretapping wiretaps used by Federal and done by Federal agents withstate law enforcement agencies out court approval in internal

President Nixon said at a Last year, 597 court orders news conference yesterday that were granted throughout the his Administration was doing United States authorizing the less Internal security eavesinstallation of electronic listen-dropping than was done in the ing devices by state and Fed-Kennedy Administration. At no eral officers. In the previous time, he said, are more than 50 internal security wiretaps in The surge in wiretapping by operation under his Adminislaw enforcement officers was tration. He added that, in 1961, marked by a sharp rise in sur- 1962 and 1963, the ceiling in

ping by Federal and state anti-Justice Department, crime investigators was author pared with 39 the year before ond such report covering na The wiretap report, which tionwide police eavesdropping

The report showed that New

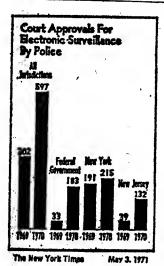
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POLICE WIRETAPS

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York, which pioneered courtapproved police wiretapping four decades ago, still authorizes more of it than any other jurisdiction. There were 215 eavesdrop warrants granted last year in New York, companed with 191 in 1969.

The data indicated that policemen and prosecutors were becoming more skilled in using



electronic eavesdropping. higher percentage of the interceptions were incriminating last year than in 1969 and more arrests resulted.

Last year, 1,874 arrests were said to have resulted from eavesdropping, compared with 625 the year before. The average device picked up 655 in-terceptions, of which 45 per cent were said to be incrimi-nating. In 1969, fewer interceptions were picked up on the average device and a lower per-

centage were incriminating.

Because of the numerous reviews that are required before a court order for eavesdropping will be granted, wiretapping tends to be used in investiga-tions of criminal activity that operates out of permanent quarters. In the Justice Department, an agent's request for wiretap permission can move through 10 officials before it reaches Attorney General John N. Mitchell for his approval. By the time a judge approves it two to three weeks have

usually elapsed.

Thus, 326 of the devices were placed in gambling establishments. Narcotics were involved in 127 wiretaps; larceny, 31; homicide, 20, and bribery and loan sharking, 16

The report showed that the police preferred to use wiretaps of telephone lines rather than hidden microphones, called bugs." Of the 597 devices authorized 539 were wiretaps, 29 were bugs and 29 were devices that picked up room conversations as well as telephone

Experts on electronic surveillance say that the heavy ratio of wiretaps shows a relatively reduced threat of invasions of privacy, as bugs can be monitored around the clock, in bedrooms and other private premises.

However, the report showed that some policemen were overstepping the law's intent, which was that surveillance should be directed at solving specific crimes and conducted for only brief periods.

One wiretap, for instance, was placed on a private home in upstate New York in an "intelligence" investigation. It was left in operation for 414